ARTICLES GIVEN BY DOCTOVR CLERKE, ARCHDEACON of DERBY, and delivered to the Church-Wardens, to be considered and answered at his Visitation there holden in the yeare of our Lord God, 1630

Whereunto the sayd *Church-Wardens* and *Sidemen are upon their Oathes to answer truly and particularly.*

(4)

LONDON,

Printed by *Iohn Legatt*, Anno Dom. 1630

The Tenor of the Oath to be miniſtred to the old Church-wardens and Side-men, when they make their Preſentment.

You ſhall, upon due conſideration of theſe things which heretofore have beene given you in charge, according to your knowledge, or as you have credibly heard, or vehemently ſuſpected; truely without either partialitie or malice, or corrupt affection, anſwer, and make true Preſentment unto the Articles and Interrogatories delivered unto you, to enquire and conſider of. So helpe you God, and the holy contents of this Booke.

The Oath of the new Church-wardens, when *they enter into their Office.*

YOu ſhall doe your endeavour to procure your Pariſhioners, to reſort unto your Church or Chappell, at ſuch times and houres, as they are by the Law bound; and that good order be there kept, eſpecially in time of Divine Service and Sermon. And you ſhall faithfully adminiſter all ſuch Church goods, as are, or ſhall come to your hands; and diſpoſe thereof for the benefit, uſe, and reparation of your Church, and make a true account of the ſame, when you ſhall bee thereunto lawfully required. And you ſhall alſo diligently enquire of, and truly, without favour, malice, or any other partiality, preſent all ſuch perſons, of, or within your Pariſh, as you ſhall either upon your owne knowledge, or by publicke fame underſtand to be mentioned in the aforeſayd Articles & Interrogatories, or any other fau to be cenſured and puniſhed by the authoritie of this Court. So he you God, and by the holy Contents of this Booke.

Arti

Articles to be considered of by the Church-wardens and Side-men, and to bee truely and particularly answered.

Concerning the buildings and reparation of Churches, Chappels, Parsonage, and Vicaridge houses, and things necessary thereunto belonging.

IN primis, If your Church (or Chappell) your Church-porch, Belfrey, and Bels, your Chancell, the Parsonage and Vicaridge houses, with all other houses, and buildings appertaining to them, in good and sufficient repaire and order, as well in the leads and other coverings, as also in the walls and windowes thereof: And is your Church floore well paved, and all your seats in your Church in good repaire and order, and your Church-yard well fenced and cleanly kept?

Whether the Church and the Parsonage houses be in good repair, and the Church-yard well fenced.

Or if there bee any defect, want, or decay in any of these, shew in how many, and in which of them it is, and whose default?

2 Item, Have you in your Church, or Chappell, a convenient seate for the Minister to reade Service in, a decent Pulpit set up in a convenient place, a Pulpit-cloth, or Cusheon, to cover or lay upon it in sermon time, a Communion Table set upon a frame, with a comely Carpet, and linnen covering, and is your Communion Table set at the East end of the Chancell, and cancelled in ...m prophane use; and have you a Communion Cup of silver, ...h a silver cover to the same, a Flaggon of pewter to put the ...ne in before the consecration, a faire and large Surplisse, a de... Font with a cover, one Chest with three lockes and keyes to ... that which is collected or given to the poore, and one other ... for keeping the Books and ornaments of the Church and the ...er Booke, an English Bible of the largest volume, lately set

Whether requisite bookes and ornaments be in the Church.

forth by the Kings authoritie, a Booke of Common Prayer newly explayned, the Booke of Homilies newly printed, the Homilies against Rebellion, the Paraphrase of Erasmus, Bishop Iewels Apologie, the Constitutions and Canons Ecclesiasticall, a Register booke in Parchment; and be the names of all such as bee Christned, Maried, or Buried within your Parish, truely and orderly entred into the same Booke? or if there bee any defect, abuse, or want, in, or of any of these, to your knowledge, or as you have heard, or doe thinke, shew in how many, and in which of them it is?

Whether any stocke of money, or other things belong to the Church.

3 Item, have any stocke of money, land, or other goods given, or meant to be imployed, to or for the vse or reparation of the Church, or relefe of the poore, or to any other godly or charitable vse? Or have you in your Parish any Land that is called the Church-land, that is not imployed to the onely vse and benefit of the Church, or relefe of the poore, but be detained in part, or in all from it? Shew in whose hands any such money, Land, or other goods be, and how they be now used?

Concerning the Minister, Schoolemaster, Parish Clarke, Church-wardens, Sidemen, and things appertaining to their duties.

How the church is served.

BE you served in your Church or Chappell with your Parson or Vicar, or with a Curate, or how long haue you been without, and in whose default?

Whether the Minister be of good conversation.

2 Is your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, of honest conversation and of good report, both for his soundnesse in Religion, and diligence in his Ministry, and also for his ciuill and godly behaviour amongst his neighbors, without any touch or note of misdemeanor, or suspition of evill government and carriage of himselfe? Is he not given to idlenesse or neglect of his studie, or to drunkennesse, or to haunting of Ale-houses, Tauerns, or gaming-houses, or doth he not vse any unlawfull games, or vnseemely exercises? And doth he weare such comely apparell as is seemely and convenient for his calling and according to the Canons?

Whether he bee diligent in his Cure.

3 Is Common Prayer and Diuine Service said by him in y Church or Chappell, reverently and distinctly, and in such y and forme, and none other, as is set forth by the Lawes of Realme? And doth hee minister the Sacraments in their with the obseruances of all things, according to the order pre in the Booke of Common Prayer? doth hee these at due an

uenient houres, not serving any more Cures then one? And doth he Catechize the youth of your Parish euery Sunday before Euening Prayer according to the Canons, and according to his Maiesties late Instructions? And doe the Parishioners send the children and youth to bee instructed? If hee or they, or any of them be defective in these or any of these, declare wherein and by whom the default is made?

Doth your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, on Sundayes and Holidayes, weare the Surplisse at Morning and Euening Prayer, and also a Hood, if hee be a Graduate? Whether he weare the Surplisse.

5 Doth hee not at any time in the fore-said daies refuse, or omit to weare the Surplisse in time of Diuine Seruice, and administration of the Sacraments? Not omitting

6 Hath hee ministred the holy Communion since the last visitation in this place to any person or persons that receiued not ẏ same kneeling and to whom hath he so ministred it?

7 Is there in your Parish any man or woman that receiueth not the Holy Communion kneeling, or refuseth to bee partaker therof, because they may not receiue it in any other gesture then kneeling? Kneeling at Communion

8 Hath your said Parson, Vicar, or Curate, baptized any childe since the aforesaid Visitation, and not signed it on the forehead with the signe of the Crosse, according to the Booke of Common Prayer? The Crosse in Baptisme.

9 Hath your Minister since the aforesayd Visitation solemnized Matrimony betwixt any man and woman, and hath not vsed therein the Ceremony of the Ring, as is appointed in the sayd Book of Common Prayer? The Ring in Marriage.

10 Item, Hath any woman in your Parish bin deliuered of child since the said last Visitation, and hath not after at conuenient time giuen thankes for her deliuerance in child-birth, and bin churched according as is required in the sayd Booke of Common Prayer? Churching of women.

11 Item, Is there any within your Parish, that being of reasonable capacitie, and above 16. yeares of age, hath not at your Parish Church or Chappel, yet receiued the holy Communion, and specially that receiued not at Easter last? Receiving the Communion.

12 Item, Doth your Minister read the whole Seruice euery Sunday and Holy-day, as is appointed in the sayd Booke of Common Prayer: and doth he read the Letanie on Wednesdaies & Fridaies. And do a competent number of your Parishioners resort thereunto? Reading the whole Seruice

13 Item, Doth any man in your Parish put on or weare his Hat in time of Diuine Seruice, and doth euerie man stand vp at Reuerence to be used in the Ser

the

the saying of the Apostles Créede, and reading of the Gospell, and at Gloria Patri, &c. and make due and lowly reverence at the name of Jesus, as it hath beene accustomed?

bulation. 14 Item, Whether did your Minister and Parishioners goe in Procession, or Perambulation the last yeare about the limits of the Parish, according to the custome of the Parish, and the Law in that behalfe?

her or Le- 15 Item, Doth your Preacher or Lecturer (if you have any such, that is neither your Parson, Vicar, nor Curate) read Divine Service, and minister the sacraments twice a yéere at the least in his owne person, wearing a surplisse, and using the other Ceremonies, and orders prescribed in the Booke of Common Prayer? And hath he so read and ministred at any time since the last aforesaid ministration? And doth he weare his surplisse and his hood, and reade the Divine service of the Church every Lecture day before his Lecture, according to his Maiesties late Instructions?

ther the Mi- 16 Item, Is your Parson, Vicar or Curate, allowed to bee a
r be a Prea- Preacher? And doth he reside upon his Benefice, and Preach either
g to other in his owne Cure, or in some other Church or Chappell where no
hers. Preacher is, one sermon at the least every Sunday in the yéere? and doe not some of your Parishioners absent themselves from his sermons, and resort to other places to heare other Preachers? which if they doe, then shew their names, and to what places they doe resort?

uring Ser- 17 And if your Parson, Vicar, or Curate be not a Preacher, doth
s. he procure sermons to be preached in his owne Cure, every moneth or quarter of a yeere at least, by Preachers lawfully licenced, not admitting any that is not so authorized? And when there is no sermon, doth hee read some of the Homilies prescribed?

mmunicating 18 And whether doe any in your Parish Communicate or Bap-
baptising in tize their children in any other Parish, because either their own Mi-
r parishes. nister is not a Preacher, or they would not have them baptized according to the forme prescribed in the Booke of common Prayer.

nge Prea- 19 What strangers, or other Preachers, then your owne Par-
rs. son, Vicar, Preacher, or Curate have preached in your Church (or Chappell) without shewing their licence at any time within this yeare last past? set downe their names, and by whom they were authorized to Preach, and whether you have in your Church a Register booke of such strange Preachers?

20 Whether doth your aforesayd Parson, Vicar, or Curate, at

any

any convenient time refuse to visite the sick, or to bury the corps of the dead, or to Baptize any Infant privately, in case of necessitie? Or hath he neglected, or refused to doe any of these, where he might without present danger have performed it? Wilfull refusing to doe his office.

21 Or doth he, being a preacher, and having some popish Recusants, or Recusant in his parish, neglect to conferr and labour with them, thereby to reclaime them from their errors? Not conferring with Recusants.

22 Doth he admit any to the receiving of the holy Communion, which he openly knowne to live in notorious sin, without some apparent shew of Repentance, and good hope of amendment, or any that have maliciously and openly contended with their neighbors, and made no shew or motion of reconciliation, or of any inclination thereunto? or any Church-wardens or Side-men that have willingly, desperately, and irreligiously incurred the horrible crime of periurie, in not presenting to their Ordinaries such offences & misdemeanors as they have had in charge to enquire of, and knowne, or credibly heard, have bene committed within your parish, & notoriously offensive to the congregation? Admitting unpersons to the Communion.

23 Or hath he ministred the holy Communion in private houses, without iust cause and sufficient reason of his so doing? Private Communion.

24 Is there any in your parish, either Minister, or other, that do resort vnto, or keep any private meetings, or conventicles in their houses for expounding the Scriptures, or anie other religious exercise? Conventicles.

25 Hath he celebrated Matrimonie betwixt any persons without either a faculty or licence lawfully granted, or the Banes of Matrimonie thrice lawfully published, without any exception against either partie, or in anie other place then the Church, or Chappell where the one of the parties dwelleth, or at any other time then in the time of Divine service, betweene eight and twelve of the clock in the fore-noone, and with consent of the parties or Governors of the parties to be married, being vnder the age of one and twentie yeares? Vnlawfull Marriages.

26 Or hath he made any vnlawfull Marriages, or solemnized Matrimonie at any other time or place, or without any licence granted, or the Banes lawfully asked, and the consent of the parents or Governors before given? Schoole-Master.

27 What schoolemaster have you in your parish or Chappelrie, that teacheth either openly or privately, in any schole, Gentlemans house, or elsewhere, and whether he is of good and sincere

Religion

Religion, and by the Ordinarie licence to teach? Whether is hee diligent in teaching and bringing up of youth, instructing them in vertue and godlinesse? or doth hee teach any thing contrary to the Religion now established? and doth he not duely come, and cause his children and Schollers to resort unto your Church or Chappel, to heare Divine Service?

ish Clarke.

28 Is your Parish Clarke obedient and serviceable unto your Parson, Vicar, or Curate, especially in time of Divine Service, and of the celebration of the Sacraments, and preparation thereunto? And doth he keepe the Books and Ornaments of the Church faire and cleane, and cause the Church and Quire, the Communion Table, the Pulpit and the Font to bee made decent and cleane, against the time of Service, the Communion, sermon, and Baptisme?

urch wardens curing resort the Church.

29 Whether have the Church-wardens and Side-men, that were the yeare last before you, beene carefull and diligent to cause your Parishioners to come to the Church, and to keepe good order and silence there, during the time of Divine service and sermons? And whether have they diligently noted the names of all such parties every Sunday and Holiday, as have beene absent from Divine service at any time, and levied the forfeiture of 12. pence for every absence from Common Prayer according to the statute, and put the same to the use of the poore within your Parish? And have you for your parts done the like.

heir accounts.

30 Have the Church-Wardens yerely given an accompt of the Church goods committed to their charge, and of other their receits and expences? and have they imployed all such goods, receits and summes of money to the use of the Church or no? If any have herein failed, what be the names of the offenders?

heir partiality. d corrupuion.

31 Have the Church-Wardens and Sworne-men in former yeares of any private corrupt affection, or feare, or for what other cause soever, concealed any crime or misdemeanour to bee reformed by Ecclesiastical censure, done in their times, sithence the said generall pardon, and have not presented the same? and what faults have they so concealed, and what were the names of such Church-wardens and Sworne-men so concealing the same?

Concerning the Parishioners that doe or should resort unto their Churches or Chappels, and such offences in them, as are to be presented.

FIrst, Whether have you within your Parish or Chappelry any persons that doe vsually and willingly absent themselves from Divine Service in your Church or Chappell vpon Sundaies and Holidaies? how long they have so done, what bee their names, and of what state, degree, or condition be they, and in what towne-ship doe they dwell? And whether Holidaies bee duely bidden in your Churches? Absence from the Church.

2 Doe any Iesuites, Seminaries, or other suspicious strange persons resort unto the houses of any person or persons within your Parish? and to what house or houses doe they resort, and what are their names? or be any of your Parishioners, or any that abide or sojourne within your parish, lately come from any part beyond the Seas, what be their names, and what is supposed to be the cause of their travell? And doe you know any persons to have beene married by any Popish priest, or otherwise secretly, and not according to the Booke of Common Prayer, or any that have caused or suffered their children or childe to be baptized after the Popish manner, or otherwise secretly, and not at their parish Church or Chappell, or not in all points according to the Booke of Common Prayer, any that have been married after the Popish Rites and Ceremonies, or not according to the order and forme prescribed in the said Booke of Common Prayer? Iesuites, Seminaries, and such like.

3 Doe you know of any within your Parish or Chappell, that vse to come negligently, very late, or seldome to Divine Service, or Sermons in your Church or Chappell, on Sundaies & Holidaies: Or have any within your Parish come very late, or beene absent to your knowledge and remembrance, what be their names, & what daies have they beene absent: And whether any doe loiter about the Church or Church-yard in time of Divine service and Prayer, or any be common sleepers in service time? Negligent coming to the Church.

4 Be there any in your Parish that have quarrelled, brawled, fought, or chid, within your Church or Church-yard, or drawne any weapon there, to the intent to strike any manner of person, contrary to the Statute in that behalfe provided, or have any otherwise rudely and disorderly behaved themselves in your Church or Chap- Chiding or quarrelling in the Church Church

pell, and thereby troubled and disturbed your Minister in time of Divine service and sermon, and be there any playes, feasts, banquets, suppers, church-ales, or drinkings, temporall Courts, or Leets or any other prophane usage, kept in your Church, Chappell or Church-yard?

Alehouses admitting resort in Service time.

5 Whether be there any Inne-holders, or Ale-house-keepers in your Parish or Chappelry, that do use to sell meat or drinke to their Parishioners, in or about their houses, keep tipling in service or sermon time, upon Sundaies and Holidaies: Or have any to your knowledge done so: or any Mercer, Butcher, or Pedler, or other Chapman that selleth or uttereth his, or her, or their wares, or make their Merchandise upon the Sundaies or Holidaies?

Witches and Sorcerers.

6 Doe you know any man or woman in your Parish, that useth Witchcraft, Sorcerie, Charmes, or any other unlawfull prayer, or Invocation in Latine, or English, or otherwise, upon any Christian body or beast: or any that is vehemently suspected for the same, and resorteth to such for counsell or helpe, and what be their names?

Vsurers.

7 Do you know any person or persons, within your parish that have committed Usurie, contrarie to an Act against usurie made in the 21. yeare of the reigne of our late Soveraigne King Iames of blessed memorie: What bee the names of such Usurers, and what is their manner of Usury?

Unlawfull Marriage.

8 Whether have you any in your Parish that have married together, being so neere of kindred & alliance, that they are within the degrees prohibited: or any man that hath married two wives, both living at one time, or any woman that hath married a second husband the first living? or any man and wife, that live not together one with the other, or any that have married, being precontracted to others, or without Banes thrice solemnly asked? or any that live together as man and wife, and are not knowne to their neighbors to be married, but are rather suspected to live incontinently, not being married?

Blasphemers, Adulterers, Fornicators, & harborers of them. Drunkards, Slanderers.

9 Are there any within your Parish or chappelry, that be notoriously knowne, commonly reported, or vehemently suspected to bee blasphemers, swearers, adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, receivers and harborers of women with child unmarried, conveying them away before they make satisfaction to the congregation, prophaners of the sabbath, drunkards, ribaulds, malicious and contentious persons, common scolds, slanderers of their Neighbours,

Railers

Railers, sowers of discord betwixt party & party, or any such like?

Excommunicate persons.

10 Are there any abiding within your Parish or Chappelrie that are excommunicated: from what Court, or by whose authority were they excommunicated; or for what cause, and how long have they stood so excommunicated?

Conversers with excommunicate persons.

11 Know you any within your Parish or Chappelrie, that have entertained into their service or house, or aided, relieved, conversed, bargained, or kept companie with any that they have knowne, or credibly heard, to stand excommunicated: and what bee the names of such excommunicate persons, and of such entertainers, aiders, relievers, conversers, bargainers, or keepers of companie with any such, and where doe they dwell?

Impugners of the Kings Supremacie in causes Ecclesiasticall.
Church government.
Consecration of Archbish.
Communion Booke.
Articles of Religion.
Constitutions & Canons.
Church rites and Ceremonies.

12 Doe you know, or have you credibly heard any in your Parish, that have, or doe contradict, impugne, or any waie impeach the Kings Highnesse Supremacie, in causes Ecclesiasticall: Or the government of Archbishops, Bishops, Deans, Archdeacons, or other Ministers and Officers under his Maiestie, in the said causes: Or of the forme of consecrating and ordering the said Archbishops, Bishops, Priests & Deacons, now used in the Church of England: Or of the Booke of Common Prayer established in the said Church: or of the Articles of Religion agreed upon by the whole Clergie of the Realme in two of their severall Convocations: one in Anno 1562, the other in Anno 1604. Or the Booke of Constitutions, or Canons Ecclesiasticall, made and set forth in the Yeare 1604, Or any the Church Rites & Ceremonies now enioined by Authoritie publike: or the lawfull use of any of the same?

What further to be presented.

13 If you know any other crime or offence committed within your Parish or Chappelrie, punishable by the Ecclesiasticall Lawes of this Land, and not particularly mentioned in these Articles, or Interrogatories, You shall likewise upon your Oath present it.

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